

Marriage: Jewish Standpoint

What is the Jewish ideal of marriage? The answer is not very difficult to find. The integrity of the family ties forms the keynote of Jewish social life, and it is this integrity that has been largely responsible for the survival, in the face of overwhelming odds, both of Jewry as a community and of Judaism as a religion. Hence it may be said that the Jewish ideal of marriage pays regard not so much to the contracting parties themselves as to the prospective offspring of the union, and the prime object of the marriage is to rear a family the members of which shall blossom into good Jews and Jewesses and useful members of society. We are glad to think that this ideal is, to a large extent, still pursued, and that Jewish home life, and in particular Jewish motherhood, can still be held up as an example to the rest of the world. But if that is the case, it cannot at the same time be admitted that the modern Jewish attitude towards marriage is uniformly commendable. In the first place, far too many Jewish matches are arranged in places very remote from Heaven, and we have little hesitation in asserting that "marriages of convenience" are prevalent among the members of our community to an inordinate extent. We are as far nowadays from being emancipated from the thrall of the Shadchan (match-maker) as we ever were, although in circles that lay claim to some measure of "culture" the place of the professional is taken by the amateur. It may perhaps be urged, and with some truth, that a large number of these "arranged" matches turn out happily, and that in many cases mutual affection and respect, if not love itself, come after instead of before marriage. That may be so, but the advocates of this system cannot deny that the risks run are very serious, and that the consequences that ensue should the marriage turn out a failure are, except in extreme cases, without remedy. There might have been some excuse for the match-maker in the days when divorce according to the Jewish law was still possible. But the English law is not

so indulgent in this respect, and will only sanction divorce where the matrimonial vows have been violated in a peculiarly flagrant manner.

There is another phenomenon, to which attention may be drawn in this connection, and which, although by no means peculiar to the Jewish community, is yet sufficiently in evidence among us to be regarded as a Jewish failing. There is very noticeable disposition among Jews to put off marrying until they have something more than a sufficiency of this world's goods. Formerly early marriages were the rule among the members of our faith, and it has reasonably been argued that this practice constitutes a powerful factor towards idealism in married life. It is, of course, impossible to dogmatise on a point like this, but it may be said that in general early marriages offer a greater chance of success from every point of view than unions that are deferred till late in life. The Chief Rabbi recently spoke strongly upon this evidence of materialism in one of the most sacred relations of human life, and the tendency is certainly one which Jews above all people should do their best to eradicate.—London "Jewish World."

JEWS IN THE UNITED STATES.

The total number of Jews in the United States is not less than 1,500,000 and may reach 2,000,000. In Greater New York there are about 1,000,000; in Chicago, 180,000; in Philadelphia, 100,000; in Boston, 80,000; in St. Louis, 50,000; in Pittsburg, 45,000; in Baltimore, 35,000; in San Francisco, 33,000; in Cincinnati, 30,000; in Minneapolis and St. Paul, 28,000. The larger part of these Jews have come to America within the past twenty-five years, and the rate of increase from this source is rapidly advancing. The positions of influence occupied by many of these Jews give them a power far beyond what might be indicated by their numbers. It is stated on good authority that there are in New York about 3,000 Jewish lawyers and 1,000 Jewish physicians. In each of the large universities there are from one to six professors who belong to the Hebrew race. In addition to their own distinctively Jewish newspapers, some of the leading dailies are owned by Jews.

A Pleasant Birthday Party

On Sunday Mr. and Mrs. H. Block entertained with a party to the many friends of their daughter, Fannie, in honor of her fourteenth birthday anniversary. The house was prettily decorated with cut flowers and ferns. The color scheme carried out in the dining room and parlors was pink and white.

A delightful evening was spent in playing various games and contests, after which all repaired to the dining room, where a table of good things awaited them.

In cutting the birthday cake the dime fell to Master Louis Pfeiffer, the thimble to Miss Etta Lewis and the button to Miss Anna Block.

Mr. and Mrs. Block were assisted by Mr. and Mrs. S. Light, Misses Fannie and Lena Becker, Misses Rose and Anna Block.

Among those who helped to celebrate the happy event were: Mr. and Mrs. S. Light, Mr. I. Block of Beaumont, Mr. Albert Sanders, Mr. B. Leon, Misses Fannie and Lena Becker and Misses Rose and Anna Block, Bessie Segel, Sadie Henkin, Gertrude Abramsohn, Mary Zaz, Bessie Ellis, Ada Zax, Rosabelle Greenberg, Lillie Segal and little Maybelle Pfeiffer, Sophia Richka, Mollie Battelstein, Floraminda Light and mascot, Etta Lewis, Ray Pinkinsky, Bertha Greenberg, Masters Herman Greenstein, Max Pinkinsky, Abe Hurwitz, Louis Pfeiffer, Frank Ellis, and Mitchell Messinger.

1908.

Rosh Hashonah, 5669, Saturday, September 26.

Yom Kippur, Monday, October 5.

First day Succoth, Saturday, October 10.

Shemini Atzreth, Saturday, October 17.

Simchath Torah, Sunday, October 18.

First day Hannukah, Saturday, December 19.

1909.

Purim, Sunday, March 7.

First day Passover, Tuesday, April 6.

Seventh day Passover, Monday, April 12.

Shabuoth, Wednesday, May 26.

Rosh Hoshonah, 5670, Thursday, September 16.

Hebrew day begins with sunset of preceding day.

POINTED PARAGRAPHS.

It's as unblest to give as it is to receive offense.

Everybody is more or less suspicious of a suspicious man.

Most men who think they are great don't even look the part.

You never know a man until you have traded horses with him.

The things a man is going to do don't put money in his pocket.

A good resolution is all right—provided you don't let it go at that.

Love is the poetry of life and matrimony is the corn beef and cabbage.

It sometimes happens that a man who has the sand isn't able to raise the dust.

Some men are not satisfied with courting trouble; they go ahead and marry it.

Sometimes a woman asks her husband's advice so she'll be in a position to take the opposite course.

A girl's idea of a happy dream is one in which either a title or a diamond necklace looms up conspicuously.—Chicago News.

THOUGHTS FOR THE DAY.

Let yesterday take care of yesterday's woes.

There is too much scoring of unbelief, as if belief were a matter of the will.

Keep a kind heart, although it requires a great deal of remembering to do it.

Almost every man knows what he ought to do—if he only had the opportunity.

Tactfulness in others is usually most admired by those who love to "spout" on every subject.

One may be tempted to praise the vices because he hears so many platitudes about the virtues.

Why hurry? There will be other generations coming on who will finish up what you leave undone.

"It Pays to Bring the Money"

Ye Clothes Shop sells clothes of distinction for Men and Young Men — priced the all cash way—at Five Naught Five Main Street near where Prairie crosses.

SIMS & LAEVERENZ

Under New Management

Good Things to Eat

"Our Aim is to Please"

**McKinney Avenue
Grocery Co.**

Pianos, Organs, Music

In addition to our complete stock of fine high grade pianos, we are adding a complete stock of sheet music, musical merchandise, etc.

The music department will be under the management of the genial and talented Pianist Mr. Theodore Meyer. We will save you money and you will receive courteous treatment. Call on us!

Oliver's Music House

Houston's Reliable Store